



Early visitors entered the cave by guano bucket.

## Ups and Downs Over Time

by Katie Grablander

THE JOURNEY DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF THE Big Room at Carlsbad Caverns National Park has not always been as quick or easy as it is today. Early visitors to the cavern entered through the bat cave by guano bucket; not nearly as fast, safe, or pleasant-smelling as the trip down today. Guano buckets held two people at a time and were lowered down 170 feet by a gasoline engine; the brake for which, by the way, was merely a board jammed in the flywheel. After spending 5 to 8 hours to see what today takes only 2 to 3 hours, each tour would end by climbing back into the guano bucket and having the motor pull the visitors out of the cave. You could say the guano bucket was the original “elevator.”

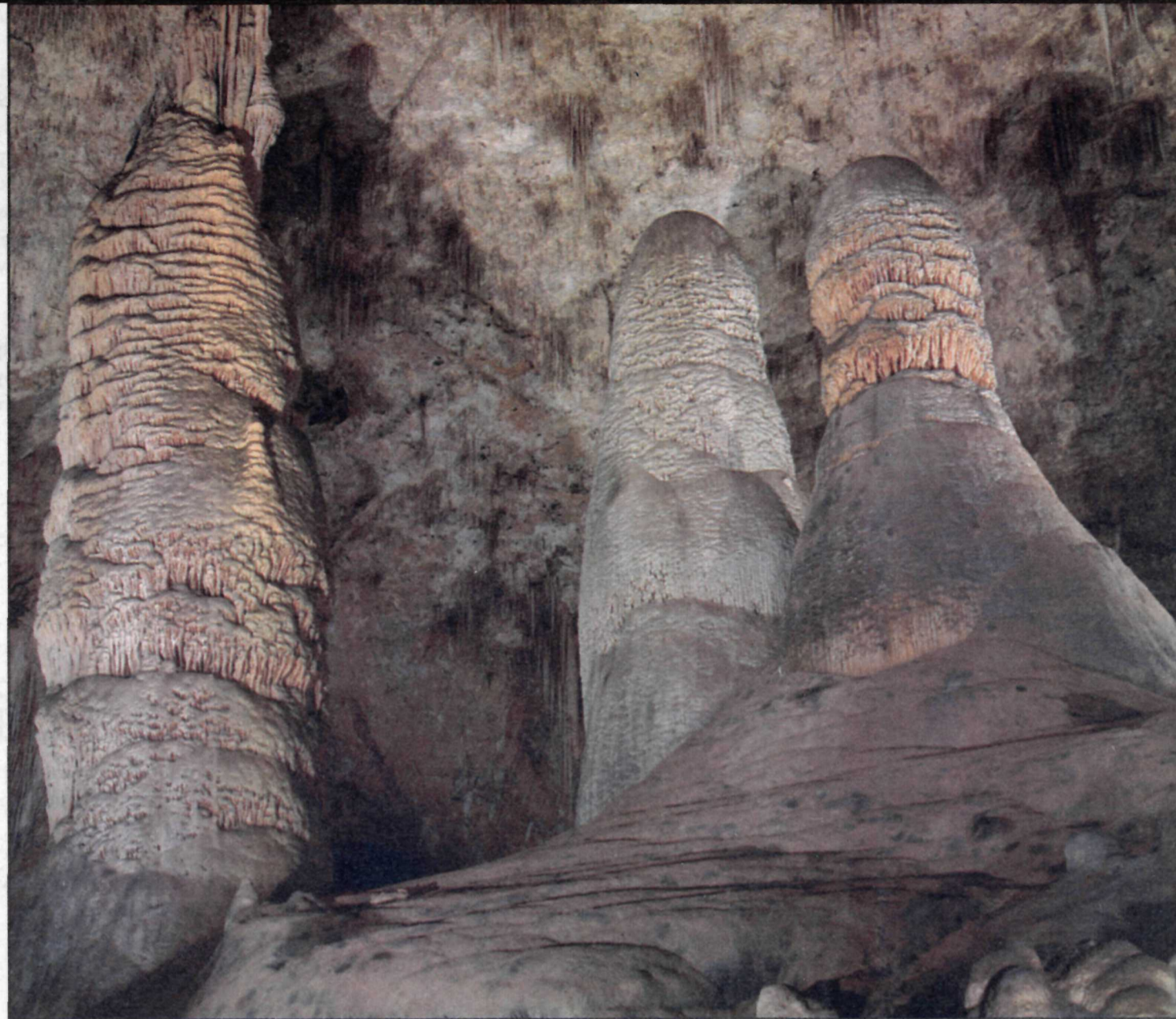
By 1926, word had spread of the wonders of Carlsbad Cavern and the increasing number of visitors required a safer and more efficient means of getting into and out of the cavern. To accommodate the higher visitation, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce donated money to build a 216-step wooden staircase down through the natural entrance of the cave and thereby eliminating the original “elevator” system until 1931.

Blasting began in January of 1931 for the shaft of the first two elevators. It was completed in August of the same year with a total cost of \$68,255.00 (\$952,570.92 in today’s dollars). The shaft was blasted primarily from the surface, with a portion blasted from the underground lunchroom area. When the two crews finally met they had blasted a shaft of 754 feet, one and a half times the total height of the Washington Monument, straight through, meeting only a quarter of an inch off the mark. Workers moved 2,565,000 pounds of limestone. At the time Mr. Atwell, the engineer of the blasting project, was practically brokenhearted to think he had failed so miserably by missing the mark by a quarter of an inch. After all, they had spent eight days doing survey work and then three crews had worked to complete the project.

### Pages 4-5 Cave Tours



NPS Photo/Peter Jones



Spectacular formations, such as the Twin Giants, are much more accessible today than when visitors first toured Carlsbad Cavern in the 1920s.

NPS Photo/Peter Jones

The very day the shaft was completed, radio personality Will Rogers was visiting the cave. He became the first tourist to take a trip down the elevator shaft. Not by elevator, but by the good old-fashioned guano bucket. Elevators were installed that winter

by the Pacific Elevator Company of San Francisco, allowing visitors to be lowered into the cavern at a speed of 7.9 miles per hour; that’s 700 feet per minute. By 1954, the popularity of Carlsbad Cavern had grown so much that the lines to use the elevators to get

in and out of the cave made it obvious that more elevators were needed. By June of 1955, the second shaft had been completed and two bigger and more modern elevators were brought on the scene. However, elevators and their operating equipment that were modern in 1955 became worn and outdated as time progressed.

### Repairs to Primary Elevator System at Carlsbad Caverns

From mid-September 2010 to mid-May 2011, visitors to Carlsbad Caverns National Park may have to wait in line to enter or exit the cave on days of high visitation, such as around holidays and spring break. While repairs are made to the primary elevator system, the smaller secondary elevators will be used to carry people. During this project, visitors will be allowed to walk out via the Natural Entrance route, a steep climb of one mile with an elevation gain of about 800 feet (240 meters). We recommend visitors schedule more time for their visit and be patient as park staff operate the remaining elevators as efficiently as possible.

Since their installation in 1955, several steel beams inside the elevator shaft that act as guide rails for the elevator system have corroded. (The elevator cars are held by seven heavy gauge steel hoist ropes that are maintained frequently. Thus, the public is not, was not, and will not be at risk.) The project will replace all rusty beams with rust-proof ones. Also, lead paint applied to the old beams will be removed and lead-free paint will be applied. These repairs will create safer work conditions, make the structure stronger, and make the elevator system last for decades to come.



NPS Photo

### Pages 6 Hiking Info



NPS Photo/Dave Bierl

### Pages 8 Fall Colors Info



NPS Photo/Michael Haynie

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## Telephone and Web Directory

Official National Park Service sites include .gov in their web address.

### Carlsbad Caverns National Park

3225 National Parks Highway  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
575-785-2232  
www.nps.gov/cave

### Guadalupe Mountains National Park

400 Pine Canyon Dr.  
Salt Flat, TX 79847  
915-828-3251  
www.nps.gov/gumo

### Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association

Operates both parks' bookstores. Books may also be purchased by mail or online.  
P.O. Box 1417  
Carlsbad, NM 88221  
575-785-2484  
575-785-2318 FAX  
www.ccgma.org

## Food, Lodging and Camping

### Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

575-887-6516  
www.carlsbadchamber.com

### Van Horn Texas Visitors Bureau

432-283-2682  
www.vanhornadvocate.com/community-adl.shtml

## Weather Conditions

### Carlsbad Weather Watch

575-885-1848

## Road Conditions

New Mexico: 800-432-4269

Texas: 800-452-9292

## Emergency: Call 911

## GPS Coordinates

### Carlsbad Caverns NP

#### Visitor Center

Coordinate System: Lat/Long  
Datum: WGS 1984  
Latitude: 32.174212° N  
Longitude: 104.445855° W

### Guadalupe Mountains NP

#### Visitor Center

Coordinate System: Lat/Long  
Datum: WGS 1984  
Latitude: 31.89370° N  
Longitude: 104.82214° W

## Time Zones

Both parks are in the Mountain Time Zone.

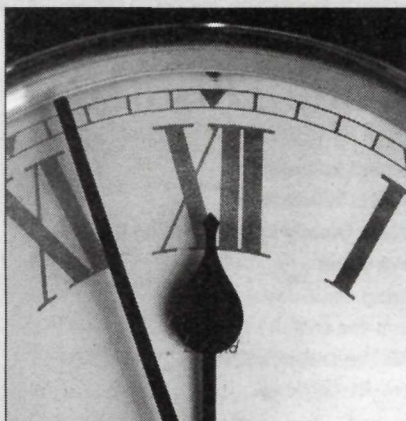


Photo by CorelDraw

# Greetings

WELCOME TO CARLSBAD CAVERNS AND GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS National Parks. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, a World Heritage Site since 1995, features a spectacular cave system of highly decorated chambers. Guadalupe Mountains National Park protects one of the world's best examples of a fossilized reef. Both parks are located within the Chihuahuan Desert, a fascinating place to explore desert life.

Fall and Winter bring their own special rewards. From late-October to early-November the colorful changes in maples, ash, and sumac delight thousands of visitors to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the summertime crowds are gone and the cave can be experienced in its natural state of quiet. Both parks offer hiking opportunities. Rare winter snows are short-lived events and can only add to the beauty of these natural areas.

Park staff are here to help make your visit a truly memorable event. They will be happy to help you plan your visit and provide information. Guided tours at Carlsbad Caverns can enrich your park experience. These tours offer a variety of caving experiences, from easy lantern tours to challenging trips involving crawling and squeezing through tight passages.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park has over 80 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenuous

mountain hikes, including an 8.4 mile roundtrip hike to Texas' highest mountain, Guadalupe Peak (8,752').

As you travel and spend time in the area please remember to keep safety in mind. Road conditions may be icy. Deer and other wildlife are plentiful—enjoy watching wildlife, but remember they often move across roads, especially in the evenings; be vigilant while driving during twilight hours. Hikers should be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. Hikers can become dehydrated in our dry climate, so carry plenty of water (one gallon per person per day is recommended). Always check with a ranger before venturing into the backcountry.

We are wholeheartedly committed to our mission of preserving and providing for the enjoyment of our nation's most outstanding treasures. We wish you a rewarding experience in every way.

Sincerely,

John C. Benjamin  
Superintendent  
Carlsbad Caverns NP

John V. Lujan  
Superintendent  
Guadalupe Mts. NP

# Volunteerism Makes a Difference

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO the dedicated effort and talent that volunteers have brought to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission of preserving our natural and cultural heritage and sharing that heritage with the visiting public. Volunteers do everything from staffing the information desk, roving interpretation, patrolling surface and cave trails, to trail maintenance, research, cave restoration, and more. To become a volunteer contact:

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Volunteer Coordinator

575-785-3130

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Craig Tanner

915-828-3251 ext. 112

# Junior and Senior Ranger Programs

MANY NATIONAL PARKS ACROSS AMERICA OFFER A JUNIOR Ranger program for children to encourage interest in their national parks and to promote a sense of stewardship and ownership for these special places that they come to visit. This self-paced educational program allows children to earn a patch and/or certificate upon completion of required activities that teach them about park resources. Age appropriate activities are included in the Junior Ranger booklet, typically for pre-kindergarten through upper elementary-aged children.

At Carlsbad Caverns, the Junior Ranger program offers activities that teach children about the resources both above ground and below the surface (including plant and animal life of the desert, cave features, and history of the park). Younger children have opportunities to color and draw, find objects on a visual scavenger hunt, use their senses to experience their surroundings, and complete games. Older children will sequence events, complete word searches, and write stories and poems. Each activity in the booklet is an optional activity depending on interest and age-level.

The Junior Ranger booklet is available at the visitor center information desk. Children of all ages may participate and earn a badge or patch—it's their choice. The program is free, but donations are

always welcome.

At Guadalupe Mountains, children work through a separate activity booklet and visit points of interest within the park. The booklet accommodates families of varying travel plans. Many of the activities can be completed at the Headquarters Visitor Center located at Pine Springs. Children who complete three activities earn a badge and certificate, while those who do six earn a patch in addition to the badge and certificate. There is no charge for participation in the program, but donations are always welcome. New this year is the availability of a Junior Paleontologist Activity Book. Participants will earn a badge upon completion.

Senior Ranger programs are a new development, currently available at limited locations, aimed at an audience that enjoys a challenge and wants to use an activity book to learn about the park and help plan their visit. A Senior Ranger program is available at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Senior Ranger books are available at the Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs for anyone 13 years and older. Activities include visiting sites, learning about the park's history, geology, flora, and fauna. Upon completion, participants earn a patch and certificate.

# Traveling with a Pet?

ON A WARM DAY THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE A CAR CAN KILL a pet. Do not leave your pets unattended.

At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, pets are not permitted in the cave or at bat flight programs. During the day, your pet may be cared for at the concessions kennel for a small fee. Call 575-785-2281 for details. A citation will be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70° Fahrenheit (21° Celsius) or higher.

At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, pets are allowed only on the Pinery trail while on leash, but are not allowed on other trails, in the backcountry, in buildings, or at evening programs; they are permitted in the Pine Springs and Dog Canyon campgrounds. In any national park, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.

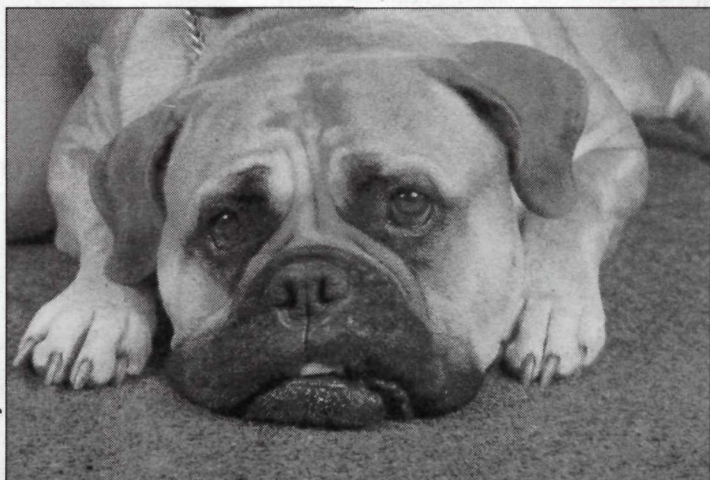


Photo by CorelDraw

# What is Wilderness?

by Christina Mills

BOTH GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS AND CARLSBAD Caverns National Parks are lucky enough to have wilderness. We usually can sense when we're in wilderness, but how?

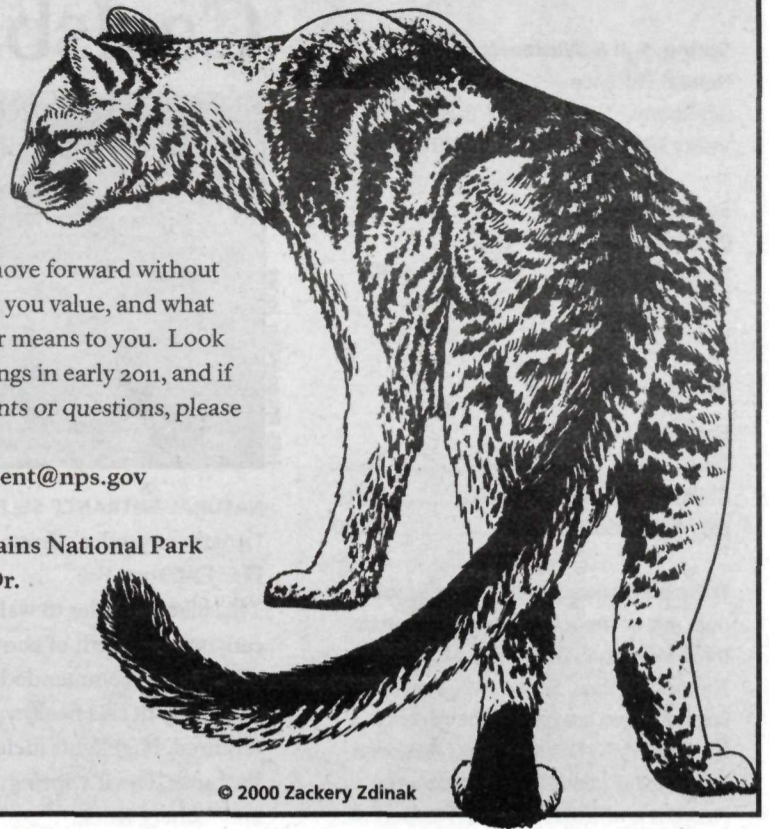
Wilderness areas not only protect the environment from modern human impacts, but they are places where we can go to escape our hectic schedules and stressful work weeks. Spend some time here, and feelings of humility, solitude, and interconnectedness with the greater community of life will begin to emerge. These characteristics cumulatively create an intricate and subtle set of relationships between us, the land, and the way we manage it. The Wilderness Act charges us to protect these sacred environments "in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment".

In order to do so, we need to clearly define what we mean by 'wilderness,' so four qualities of wilderness have been identified to capture wilderness character. First, wilderness is untrammeled, or unmanipulated by modern people. Secondly, wilderness is natural, or its ecological processes are intact. Wilderness is also undeveloped, where human presence and impacts are unnoticeable. Finally, wilderness is a place where visitors can experience solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

In the coming months, Guadalupe Mountains National Park will be using these qualities of wilderness character to examine our wilderness stewardship here at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. With your help, we'll be developing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan to ensure that we're doing our

best to preserve this treasured resource. This wilderness belongs to all of us, and we cannot move forward without understanding what you value, and what wilderness character means to you. Look out for public meetings in early 2011, and if you have any comments or questions, please send them to:

gumo\_superintendent@nps.gov  
or  
Guadalupe Mountains National Park  
400 Pine Canyon Dr.  
Salt Flat, TX 79847



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# A New Deadly Disease Killing Bats

by Dale Pate

BATS ARE IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEMS ACROSS the country and the world. They are excellent pollinators and eat millions of tons of insects nightly. Some of these insects are pests on food crops. A study completed in the 1990's on the Brazilian (Mexican) freetail bats from Carlsbad Cavern shows that 40 percent of the insects devoured by these bats are crop pests taken along the farmlands of the nearby Pecos River. Bats are important.

Unfortunately, beginning in the winter of 2006-2007 in caves near Albany, New York, a new and very deadly disease began to decimate bats that hibernate. Bat deaths were immediately associated with a white fungus

growing around noses, ears, and on wing membranes. This condition was later named "White-nose Syndrome (WNS)".

Since 2006, over 1-million bats have been killed by this disease and as of this summer, WNS has been detected in nine species of bats that hibernate. Death rates of various colonies have been from 90 percent to 100 percent of all bats in that particular colony. An additional concern is that WNS is spreading rapidly. It is now found in caves and mines in 14 states. The most recent occurrence of WNS was found in a cave in western Oklahoma.

There are lots of unknowns concerning WNS. At this time, it does not appear to be affecting summer bat colonies such as Bra-

zilian Freetail bats that Carlsbad Cavern is famous for. We must all be vigilant though. While it is known that transmission of the fungus is mostly from bat-to-bat, it may also be possible for humans to transport fungus spores on clothing, gear, shoes, or skin.

In an effort to slow down the spread of fungus and give bat scientists more time to look for a solution to this serious problem, Carlsbad Caverns National Park is asking visitors to caves in the park or the area to be aware of this problem and to help minimize the potential spread of this deadly disease. Everyone can help in the following ways:

If you have been in a cave or mine that is known to harbor WNS, or if you have been

in a cave or mine within a state known to have WNS, please do not bring any of those items into Carlsbad Cavern or other caves. States known to have WNS include: CT, DE, MA, MD, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OK, PA, TN, VA, VT, and WV.

If you are taking one of the ranger-guided off-trail trips offered by Carlsbad Caverns National Park, please use the gear furnished by the park on those tours. As well, clean your shoes and other clothing before entering the cave.

Check when arriving at the park for any updates on WNS and what you can do to help prevent its continued spread to other areas and other bat species.

# From the CCGMA Bookstore

THE CARLSBAD CAVERNS-GUADALUPE Mountains Association (CCGMA) is a private, nonprofit organization whose main objectives are to provide interpretation for the park visitor and to support the purposes and mission of the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and the lands related to them in New Mexico and west Texas since 1957. To date, CCGMA has donated over \$2.7 million to both Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. The goals of CCGMA are accomplished through educational programs using a variety of educational media and scientific investigations resulting in a greater appreciation of those resources being conserved for this and future generations. CCGMA has three retail bookstore outlets located at Carlsbad Caverns, the Guadalupe Mountains, and the administration office building in the city of Carlsbad. Plans are underway to open additional outlets in Carlsbad.

Books may also be purchased by mail or online:

PO Box 1417  
Carlsbad, NM 88221  
(575) 785-2484  
(575) 785-2318 FAX  
www.ccgma.org

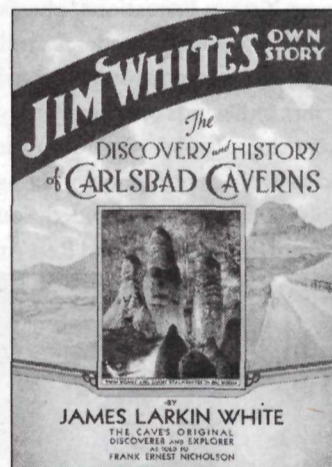
Consider joining CCGMA. As a member you will receive a 15 percent discount on

all purchases. This discount is extended to several cooperating associations of other national parks as well. You will also receive the CCGMA newsletter and the Visitor Guide for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks (2 issues a year). In addition to these benefits, you will receive a free dvd on Carlsbad Caverns National Park or Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Most importantly, your contribution helps further our mission of providing aid to these parks.

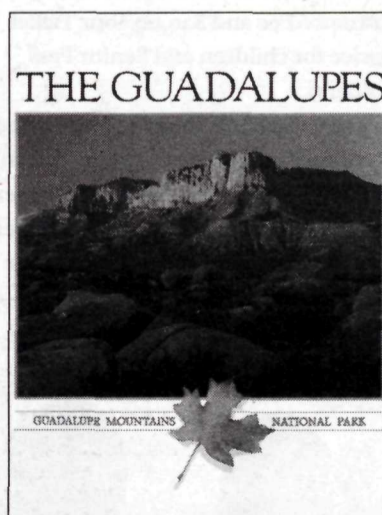
Membership (1 year)	\$25.00
<b>SAMPLE SELECTIONS</b>	
Jim White's Own Story	\$6.95
Spirit of Exploration DVD	\$19.95
The Guadalupe	\$4.00
Stories from Stones	\$7.95

Purchases may be made by credit card or check. Include your address and daytime phone number. If ordering by credit card include the card number, the date of expiration, and the signature of the cardholder. The following cards are accepted: American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. Make checks payable to CCGMA.

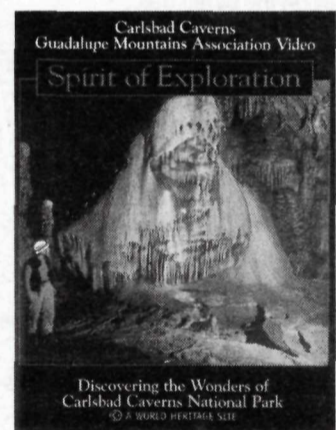
Shipping and handling charges for book orders are as follows:  
\$4.00 for purchases up to \$15.00  
\$5.00 for purchases \$15.01-30.00  
\$6.00 for purchases \$30.01-50.00



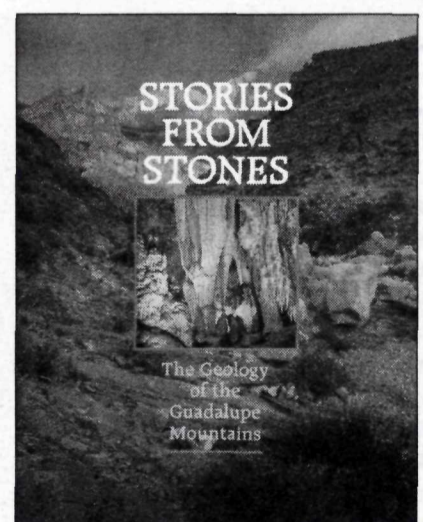
In this book, Jim White tells of his initial discovery and early adventures in Carlsbad Cavern. Numerous historic black and white photos, 32 pages, 6x9.5 inches. \$6.95



This picture book provides a general overview of Guadalupe Mountains National Park history, biodiversity, and geology. Full color photography throughout, 32 pages, 8.5 x 11 in. \$4.00



This DVD allows viewers to see and enjoy the beauty of the main caverns, batflight and rarely visited portions of the park including newly discovered Lechuguilla Cave. 54 minutes \$19.95



This introduction to Guadalupe Mountains' geology has explanatory diagrams and photos. Includes sections on cave and speleothem formation. Color photography, 40 pages, 8.5 x 11 inches. \$7.95

# Carlsbad Caverns Cave Tours

## Spring, Fall & Winter Hours

Natural Entrance	8:30 - 2:00
Big Room	8:30 - 3:30
Visitor Center	8:00 - 5:00

## Summer Hours (5/27/11 to 9/6/11)

Natural Entrance	8:30 - 3:30
Big Room	8:30 - 5:00
Visitor Center	8:00 - 7:00

## Entrance Fees

Adults—age 16 and older.....	\$6.00
Children—15 and younger.....	free
plus Audio Guide.....	\$3.00

There is no entrance fee for those who own any of the following passes (up to three individuals plus the cardholder): The Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass (all three are part of the America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass), Golden Age Passport and Golden Access Passport all cover the basic entrance fee. Pass holders must still obtain entry tickets.

Entrance fee applies to self-guided tours. Guided tours require an additional fee.

All fees and tours are subject to change.

## Reservations

We recommend that you make reservations for guided tours at least six weeks in advance. Some tours fill quickly. Reservations are not necessary for self-guided tours. To make reservations call the National Park Reservation System at: 877-444-6777 or visit [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov)

## Have a Safe Tour

Cave temperature is 56° F (13° C) year-round. A light jacket or sweater and good walking shoes are recommended. Do not wear sandals. For your safety:

- Stay on the paved trail.
- Supervise children closely; children under 16 must remain with an adult at all times.
- Ask park rangers for help.
- Take prescribed medications with you.
- High humidity in the cave can affect respiratory problems; bring your inhaler just in case.
- If you are **diabetic**, be sure you have eaten enough calories.
- If you have an infant with you, child-carrying backpacks are recommended. **Strollers are not allowed.**
- Leave your pet at the kennel, not in your car.

## Protect the Cave

- Never touch, tap or handle the cave formations; the oils on your skin damage the formations.
- Never take gum, food or drinks into the cave.
- Never throw coins or other objects into the pools.

## Photography

Photography is permitted on most tours; however, please use good etiquette. Warn those around you before you flash, keep tripods on the trail, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. Video cameras are permitted on the Big Room, Natural Entrance, and King's Palace tours. Please use caution and do not use the ultra-bright lights available on some cameras. Photography is **not** allowed at the Bat Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## NATURAL ENTRANCE SELF-GUIDED ROUTE

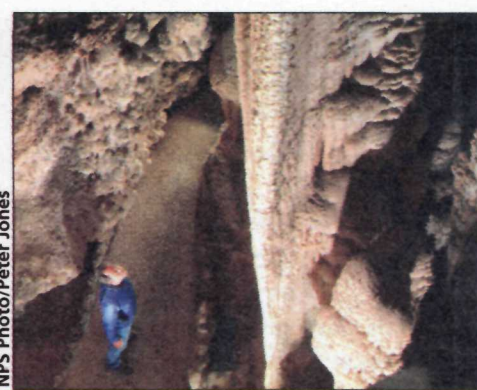
Length: 1.25 miles, 1 hour  
Fee: Entrance Fee  
This hike is similar to walking into a steep canyon (a descent of about 800 feet in one mile). It is recommended only for those physically fit and healthy; sturdy footwear required. Highlights include the Natural Entrance, Devil's Spring, Whale's Mouth, and Iceberg Rock.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## BIG ROOM SELF-GUIDED ROUTE

Length: 1.25 miles, 1.5 hours  
Fee: Entrance Fee  
Descend by elevator to start the tour in the Underground Rest Area. The non-skid trail is paved and mostly level, although there are a couple of short, steep hills. All visitors to Carlsbad Cavern should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion's Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. Some of this trail can be navigated by wheelchairs, with assistance. The park does not provide wheelchairs. This trail can also be accessed after hiking the 1.25-mile Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## KING'S PALACE GUIDED TOUR

Length: 1 mile, 1.5 hours  
Fee: Entrance Fee and \$8.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)  
Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area. Tickets may be purchased at the visitor center; however, reservations are recommended. You will visit four highly decorated chambers: King's Palace, Papoose Room, Queen's Chamber and Green Lake Room. The tour guide will turn out the lights for a blackout experience. The trail is paved; however, there is an eight-story hill that you must walk down and then back up.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## LEFT HAND TUNNEL

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$7.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)  
On this lantern-lit tour your guide will highlight cavern history, formations, cave pools and Permian Age fossils. Moderately difficult on dirt trail and uneven ground. Be aware that the dirt trail winds over small uneven or slippery slopes and careful footing is required to avoid cavern pools and fragile formations. Lanterns are provided. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## LOWER CAVE

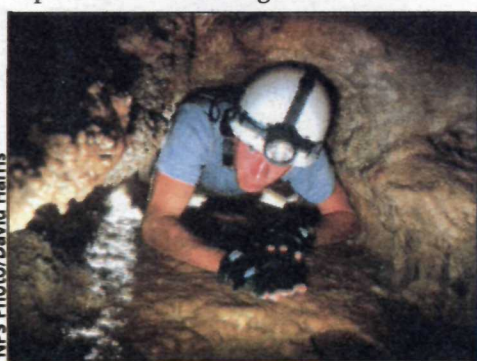
Fee: Entrance Fee and \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)  
This moderately strenuous tour begins with a ranger-supervised descent down a 10-foot flowstone slope using a knotted rope, followed by a 50-foot series of three ladders. Bring gloves, four new AA alkaline batteries per person and optional kneepads. The park provides helmets and headlamps. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area. You will see cave pools and beautiful formations.



NPS Photo/Dale Pate

## SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE

Fee: \$15.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)  
This strenuous tour is through a well-decorated backcountry cave. It is mandatory for each person to bring a minimum of a heavy duty two C-cell battery flashlight with fresh batteries. An additional headlamp is also recommended. Penlights are not sufficient. The route is slippery, muddy and may require an ascent of a 15-foot slope using a knotted rope.



NPS Photo/David Harris

## HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT

Fee: Entrance Fee and \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)  
This is a strenuous, challenging tour to a remote chamber in Carlsbad Cavern. You will be required to crawl long distances, squeeze through tight crevices and climb up slippery passages. Bring gloves, kneepads and four new AA alkaline batteries per person. We provide helmets and headlamps. Tour departs from the Underground Rest Area.



NPS Photo/Peter Jones

## SPIDER CAVE

Fee: \$20.00 Tour Ticket (Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)  
On this strenuous tour you can expect tight crawls, canyon-like passages and bizarre formations. Bring gloves, kneepads and four new AA alkaline batteries per person. The park provides helmets and headlamps. The tour departs from the visitor center for a short drive and then a short hike to the cave.



NPS Photo/Dale Smith

Do not drive to the visitor center for this cave tour.

Allow plenty of time to drive to Slaughter Canyon and 45 minutes for the steep and strenuous half-mile hike to the cave entrance. Attempt this hike only if you are in good health.

Carry water—weather may be very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Stay on the trail and wear sturdy hiking shoes. *Tours depart from the cave entrance at the scheduled time.*

## AUDIO GUIDES

Enhance your visit with an audio guide rental. As you tour the cavern, you will learn about the natural and cultural history of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Audio guide rentals are administered by Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association (CCGMA), a non-profit organization. The cost is \$3.00 and proceeds are donated to the park.

# For Reservations call 877-444-6777

Tour	Trail Surface	Offered	Departure Time	Adult Fee	Age Limit	Tour Length	Group Size
King's Palace	Paved Trail; 80' hill must be climbed on return trip	Daily	Spring, Fall, Winter 10 & 2  Summer (5/27/11 - 9/6/11) 10, 11, 12, 2, & 3 p.m.	Adults \$8 Children (4-15), Senior Pass holders \$4  A General Admission Ticket is also required.	4	1.5 hours	55
Left Hand Tunnel	Uneven dirt trail and slippery slopes	Daily	9:00 a.m.	\$7.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass holders)	6	2 hours	15
Lower Cave	Must negotiate fifty feet of ladders, variable dirt trails, might get dirty.	Monday through Friday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)	12	3 hours	12
Slaughter Canyon Cave	Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven and rocky.	Saturday and Sunday (9/7/11 to 5/26/11) Daily in Summer (5/27/11 to 9/6/11)	10:00 a.m.	\$15.00 (\$7.50 ages 8-15, Senior Pass holders)	8	2- 2.5 hours	25
Wild Caving—kneepads required							
Hall of the White Giant	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)	12	4 hours	8
Spider Cave	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 (\$10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)	12	4 hours	8

## Surface Activities

### SERVICES

Facilities include a visitor center, exhibits, bookstore, restaurant, gift shop and kennel service. Ranger programs are offered daily. Other activities include:

### NATURE TRAIL

This one-mile paved, partially wheelchair accessible trail begins near the visitor center and highlights desert plants.

### SCENIC DRIVE

A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this 9.5-mile gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except trailers and motor homes. Brochures are available for 50 cents. The scenic drive is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. mid-May to mid-October. It is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. mid-October to mid-May. These hours are subject to change.

### RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS

This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms and excellent bird watching. Located 5.5 miles south of White's City on Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles west on County Road 418. Day use only.

### HIKING & CAMPING

The park's wilderness offers day hikes and backcountry camping (permit required). Rangers at the visitor center can provide free permits, trail and weather information, and backcountry camping tips. The bookstore sells topographic maps, which are considered essential for desert hiking.

### BAT FLIGHT PROGRAMS (MAY-OCTOBER)

A few hundred thousand bats fly from Carlsbad Cavern each evening from mid-May until the bats migrate to Mexico sometime in mid-October. The ranger program generally begins each evening 30 to 60 minutes before sunset at the park amphitheater, though weather and lightning can cause cancellation of the program. Check at the visitor center for the exact time the program starts or call 575-785-3012. Cameras are **not** allowed. The lights and high frequency sounds made by the cameras disturb the bats. This rule is strictly enforced.



### NIGHT SKY WATCHING

Oct. 2

8:00 P.M.

#### Guest Astronomer

Join John Gilkison, President of the National Public Observatory in Radium Springs, NM, to learn about the wonders of the night sky with a laser-guided tour of the stars and viewing through telescopes.

Oct. 9

7:00 P.M.

#### Exploring the Night at Carlsbad Caverns

Join park staff for a variety of activities for the whole family to learn about the desert at night as well as the stars above.

Telescopes provided. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.



## America the Beautiful—The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass



### ANNUAL PASS

The America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Annual Pass replaces the Golden Eagle Passport, the National Parks Pass, and the National Parks Pass with Golden Eagle Sticker. The annual pass is replaced each year. A federal lands photo contest is held each year, with the winning image featured on the subsequent year's annual pass. Information on the current contest for the next annual pass image can be found at [www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org).

The annual pass sells for \$80.00 and is good for one year from date of purchase. The pass covers entrance fees at National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U. S. Forest Service sites. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

### SENIOR PASS

The new Senior Pass replaces the Golden Age Passport. Golden Age Passports will continue to be honored.

The Senior Pass sells for \$10.00 and is good for life. Any permanent resident of the United States 62 years or older may purchase the Senior Pass.

It covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U. S. Forest Service Sites. Some camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

### ACCESS PASS

The new Access Pass replaces the Golden Access Passport. Existing Golden Access Passports will continue to be honored.

The Access Pass is available for free to any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of any age that has been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

The Access Pass covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Forest Service Sites. Some camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The free pass can be obtained upon signing a medical affidavit at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

### GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP ANNUAL PASS

Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers an annual pass for \$20.00 for regional visitors who plan on visiting the park more than once a year, but may not visit other federal fee areas.

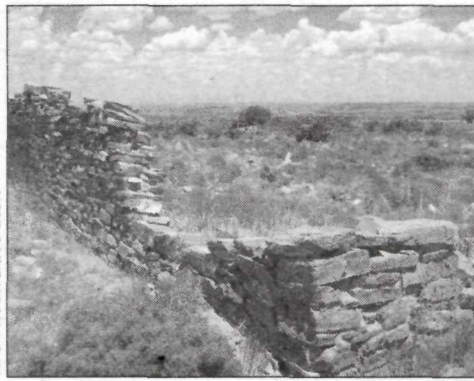
The pass covers entrance fees and is good for 3 individuals plus the cardholder (persons 15 years and younger are free with or without the Guadalupe Mountains NP Annual Pass). The pass is available for purchase at the park.

# Guadalupe Mountains National Park

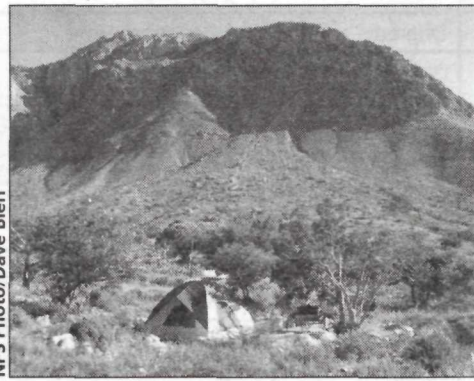


**ENTRANCE FEE**  
\$5.00/person (16 & older)  
Free for Senior, Access,  
and Annual Pass cardholders

NPS Photo/Michael Haynie



NPS Photo/Dave Bieri



NPS Photo/Dave Bieri



NPS Photo

## SERVICES

Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. The nearest gas stations are 32 miles west or 35 miles east. There is no campstore; bring everything you need with you.

## INFORMATION & EXHIBITS

### Headquarters Visitor Center

Elevation 5,730'. On Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad and 110 miles east of El Paso. Open every day except Christmas. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone); after Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

### Frijole Ranch History Museum

The ranch house features exhibits describing historic and current use of the Guadalupe. Grounds include a picnic area near a spring shaded by large oak trees. Staffed intermittently.

### McKittrick Canyon

Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. During daylight savings time, hours are expanded 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Restrooms, outdoor exhibits, slide program, picnic tables.

### Hike Safely...

- There is no water available along park trails, so be sure to bring plenty with you. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Trails are rocky—wear sturdy shoes.
- Carry a trail map.
- Pack warm clothing and rain gear; sudden weather changes are common.

### Protect the Park...

- Stay on trails; don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.
- Carry out all trash, including cigarette butts.
- Report any trail hazards to the visitor center.
- Collecting of natural, historic or prehistoric objects is prohibited.

### Weather

	Average Temperature (° F)		Average Rainfall Inches
	High	Low	
Jan	56	34	0.67
Feb	59	36	0.90
Mar	65	41	0.58
Apr	73	48	0.60
May	82	56	0.91
June	88	62	2.18
July	88	64	2.37
Aug	86	63	3.29
Sep	81	58	2.54
Oct	73	50	1.34
Nov	63	41	0.97
Dec	56	33	1.05
Average annual precipitation for Pine Springs (1980-2003)			17.4

## HIKING

### Pinery Trail

Distance: .67 mile  
Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, slight incline on return trip.

Discover the desert as you walk to the ruins of the Pinery, a stagecoach station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858. Trailside exhibits. Pets on leash are allowed on this trail.

### McKittrick Canyon Trail

Distance: to Pratt Cabin 4.8 miles roundtrip, to the Grotto, 6.8 miles roundtrip  
Difficulty: Moderate, level but rocky trail, 200' elevation gain to Grotto.

Follow an intermittent stream through the desert and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Cabin. A guidebook is available at the trailhead. The Grotto Picnic Area and Hunter Line Cabin are one mile beyond the Pratt Cabin. Please do not drink the water or wade in the creek. To protect this fragile environment, you are required to stay on the trail.

### Guadalupe Peak Trail

Distance: 8.4 miles  
Difficulty: Strenuous. Approximately 3,000' elevation gain, steep, rocky path.

Hike to the "Top of Texas" at 8,752' for spectacular views. Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms. During warm temperatures, carry a gallon of water per person.

## CAMPING

Water and restrooms are available, but there are no showers, RV hookups, or dump stations. The fee is \$8.00 per night, per site, \$4.00 with a Senior Pass (or existing Golden Age Passport) or Access Pass (or existing Golden Access Passport). No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

### Pine Springs Campground

Located near the Headquarters Visitor Center, there are twenty tent and nineteen RV campsites (including a wheelchair accessible tent site) available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two group campsites are available for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations (for group sites only) can be made by phoning 915-828-3251 up to 60 days in advance. Campers planning on day hiking in McKittrick Canyon, to Guadalupe Peak or the Bowl will want to stay here.

### Dog Canyon Campground

Located at the end of New Mexico Highway 137, 70 miles from Carlsbad and 110 miles from Park Headquarters, at an elevation of 6,290' in a secluded, forested canyon on the north side of the park. The campground has nine tent and four RV campsites (including a wheelchair accessible tent site). There is one group site for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations for the group site only can be made up to 60 days in advance by calling 915-828-3251.

## BACKPACKING

Eighty-five miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and desert. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Headquarters Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station. For those coming through Carlsbad, Dog Canyon is a great place to begin a backpacking trip because it requires less elevation gain to get into the backcountry.

Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are allowed. Pack out all your trash. Pets are not allowed on park trails. Firearms are not permitted within the park.

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable backpacking trip. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Carry plenty of water—there are no water sources in the backcountry. Topographic maps, hikers' guides, and information can be found at the Headquarters Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

## Other Popular Hikes...

Trailhead	Trail	Distance Roundtrip	Description
Pine Springs	Devil's Hall Trail	4.2 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Rocky hike in Pine Spring Canyon to the Hikers' Staircase and Devil's Hall. After the first mile, the trail drops into the wash. Turn left and follow the canyon bottom to Devil's Hall, where a sign marks the end of the trail.
	The Bowl	8.5 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> The Bowl shelters a highcountry conifer forest. Recommended route: Tejas Trail to Pine Top, Bowl Trail to Hunter Peak, Bear Canyon Trail, Frijole Trail back to campground. Trail climbs 2,500'. Bear Canyon Trail is very rocky and extremely steep.
	El Capitan Trail	11.3 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Desert lovers will appreciate the rocky arroyos and open vistas while skirting along the base of El Capitan. Recommended route: El Capitan Trail, Salt Basin Overlook, and return to Pine Springs on the El Capitan Trail.
Frijole Ranch	Manzanita Spring	.4 miles	<b>Easy.</b> Path is paved and wheelchair accessible. Hike to a small pond that serves as a desert oasis. Dragonflies, butterflies, and birds are active here in the warmer months. During winter, bluebirds frequent the area. Opportunities for chancing upon other wildlife are higher here as well.
	Smith Spring Trail (entire loop)	2.3 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Look for birds, deer and elk as you pass Manzanita Spring on the way to the shady oasis of Smith Spring. Trees around Smith Spring include madrones, maples, oaks, chokecherry, ponderosa pines and others.
McKittrick Canyon	McKittrick Nature Loop	0.9 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.
	Permian Reef Trail	8.4 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> For serious geology buffs, this trail has stop markers that can be used with a geology guidebook sold at the Visitor Center. There are excellent views into McKittrick Canyon from the ridgetop. Trail climbs 2,000'.
Dog Canyon	Indian Meadow Nature Loop	0.6 miles	<b>Easy.</b> A guide pamphlet describes ecology and geology.
	Marcus Overlook	4.6 miles	<b>Moderate.</b> Follow the Bush Mountain Trail to the ridgetop for a view into West Dog Canyon. Trail climbs 800'.
	Lost Peak	6.4 miles	<b>Strenuous.</b> Climb out of Dog Canyon on the Tejas Trail to visit the conifer forest above. Outstanding views from Lost Peak. Lost Peak is a short distance off trail to the right before the horse hitches. Trail climbs 1,500'.

# From the Ocean's Edge to the Desert's Springs

by Michael Haynie

WATER IS NOT SOMETHING WE THINK ABOUT unless we have too much or too little. At first glance, water may even seem utterly mundane. However, if we look at the presence of water on our planet, its place in the universe, and its role in shaping the Guadalupe Mountains, we find it is truly extraordinary. Our planet sits in a narrow sliver of space where the presence of liquid water is possible. Scientists estimate that of the total distance from the sun to the outer reaches of our solar system, less than one percent can support water as solid, vapor, and liquid. When we look at the earth, water is abundant, covering nearly 70 percent of its surface. Yet, the amount of water that can easily be used by land-dwelling creatures is extremely limited. Over 97 percent of the water on our planet is saltwater. Another two percent is frozen in the polar ice caps and glaciers. That leaves only one percent in our lakes, rivers, and aquifers to supply all of the competing demands made by endangered species, irrigation, industry, and municipalities. It is easier to recognize the significance of water when it is scarce. Necessary for life, yet often taken for granted, it is the recognition of water's scarcity locally that can help us appreciate its significance. Ironically, after crossing hundreds of miles of desert, you will discover that water's effects can be seen in the most spectacular features of the Guadalupe Mountains and environs, a region known for its abundant sunshine and aridity.

Water has been a mercurial power in the Guadalupe Mountains, fickle in its grants of life and a constant shapeshifter, changing slowly over eons and suddenly in cloud-bursts. On encountering the Guadalupe Mountains for the first time, water is noticeably absent, but exploration reveals that water is to be found in the form of hidden springs and crystal clear streams, and that it falls to the earth during a brief, life-giving monsoon in summer and as occasional snows during winter.



Much-needed rain often comes in the form of violent thunderstorms.

## THE SUDDEN RETURN OF WATER

In arid lands, the return of water is hoped and prayed for, but it is also sometimes dreaded. In the spring of 2010, water levels in McKittrick Canyon rose to dangerous heights, thrashing vegetation and carrying boulders downstream far from their last resting places. After the levels dropped enough to allow safe passage, hikers could discover debris eight feet high in streamside trees. About one-mile in, water's power could be seen at an area historically known as the first water-crossing. The large boulders used as stepping stones were gone and the streambed had been scoured to its travertine base. Embedded in the travertine, stepping stones placed decades ago offered testimony to the slow building action of these lime-rich waters. Over time the stream has carved a canyon, but it is also cementing the canyon floor. As the water flows and percolates, it deposits lime (calcium carbonate), which solidifies to travertine, coating stems of plants and rocks. The gradual cementa-



Nature's greatest shapeshifter, water, has brought tremendous change to the Guadalupe Mountains, whether it be in the form of an ancient ocean or today's springs. Seasonal precipitation in the form of summer thunderstorms and occasional snows in winter, varies greatly from one locale to the next and adds to the land's diversity.

tion of the canyon floor alters how water flows through the canyon, creating natural dams and large pools of water. All of this can change in an instant with a flash flood. The large boulders carried by floodwaters can smash the travertine dams and rearrange the gravel and cobbles for long distances. Where water once flowed reliably, it can be sent underground. The first water crossing became bone dry, a phenomenon not seen since the 1980s. As rains fell throughout the year, water would flow and disappear at the historically wet crossing. It is unknown whether it will return to stay or if its course has been altered forever.

## PAST ABUNDANCE

These sudden fluctuations in water levels and today's limited availability are in marked contrast to the ancient past. In its oldest form water was vast. Traces of a long vanished ocean are found in every rock in Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Over 260 million years ago water nurtured and provided a home for a wide array of organisms. Fossils reveal that the mountains form one segment of the backbone of a reef that stretched nearly 400 miles. Today, the combination of millions of skeletons from sponges, fossilized algae, and calcium cement form a mass of rock visible from over 50 miles away. The reef's continued growth was cut short near the end of the Permian Period. As the Delaware Basin was slowly raised, its waters stagnated and evaporated. Water vanished, spreading a shroud of gypsum, salt, and sediment on a dying reef.

From the end of the Permian (251 million years ago) to today, the story of water is like a book with its middle chapters ripped out. Sediments were eroded away as the area experienced periods of uplift beginning with the Basin and Range block-faulting that affected large portions of western North America. Between 20-30 million years ago, the earth's crust tore apart in multiple places, with large chunks rising relative to down-dropped blocks, forming a series of north-south trending mountains parallel to closed basins. The Guadalupe Mountains are the southeastern portion of that geographic province. Uplifting of the mountains continued to occur as recently as six to eight million years ago.

Today's rugged topography is of relatively recent origin, so for the huge span of time from the end of the Permian to the Pleistocene Epoch (2.6 million years ago to 10,000 years ago), we have to rely on evidence from neighboring areas to follow the story of water. The intercontinental seaway that stretched through North America during the Cretaceous Period (145 to 65 million years ago) covered this area, so once again water was abundant, but in the local area, the

pages of that story are missing, removed by erosional forces during the period of uplift. Plant fossils from the southern parts of the Delaware Basin suggest a wetter climate during the Eocene Epoch (56 to 34 million years ago), but greater changes were in store during the Pleistocene. It is during the Pleistocene that we discover the penultimate change in water's shape and role before the creation of today's arid to semiarid climate and limited distribution of water. The climate changed numerous times, with cold periods creating Ice Ages, which brought more rain and snow, but no glaciers, at least not locally. Dire wolf bones and sloth hides found in some of the Guadalupe's numerous caves point to a substantially different climate and fauna. West of the Guadalupe Mountains a lake formed in the closed Salt Basin during the Pleistocene. As the area became hotter and drier, beginning approximately 10,000 years ago, the lake evaporated and deposited gypsum and salt and areas of permanent water were reduced to small springs and streams.

## PRESENT DAY SCARCITY

Today, water performs miracles in the desert. It emerges from stone that itself emerged from water. Numerous springs dot the eastern escarpment of the Guadalupe Mountains. Water percolates through joints in the layers of limestone until it encounters impermeable fine-grained sandstone layers. It is here that the spillways and outcrops of perched aquifers offer their blessings to the animals. A surprising variety of plants also thrive at these oases. Around springs, ferns cascade over rocks that are cracked by the growing roots of cacti. However, the promise of water is tempered by the desert's deceptions. The horizon, always retreating, can shimmer with false hope. People have been lured to their deaths in the pursuit of water.

Those before us that walked and rode these mountains certainly did not take water for granted. They fought over it. Once settlers occupied the area they then struggled to lift this water out of the ground and push it up into the mountains. Remnants of rusty pipe seem out of place in these remote areas and all the more so when one considers the energy expended in the fight against gravity and the natural order. A hike to Smith



Springs offers one a chance to explore the desert and discover its beauty, sometimes subtle, sometimes extravagant. The solitude to be found here allows one to turn thoughts over slowly. Water has played a significant role in its marine and freshwater forms and in its abundance and scarcity. Modern convenience and our appetite for easy water have cheapened it for many. Perhaps too commonplace and mundane, it is dismissed as unworthy of further attention. But water has been celebrated across the globe and throughout history by many cultures. Valued for its cleansing properties and as a source of renewal, used ceremonially in baptism and purification rites, and personified in myth and poetry, humankind has intuitively recognized the value of water as a significant part of our lives. This mysterious and freely-given substance is all around us and part of us at the same time.

## INSPIRED BY WATER

Imagine sitting in McKittrick Canyon under the branches of a maple tree by the water's edge and watching a leaf spiral lazily down to the water's surface where it is carried gently around and over the rocks in the streambed. How easily it deals with the difficulties in its path and trusts the flow around it! The water speaks softly, and despite the magnificence of its carving of the canyon's walls, it bows down and constantly seeks a lower place with humility. Gentle and patient, water is wearing away the rock and slowly cementing what remains. Whatever is resistant in us, can be worn away too, and with time, whatever needs rebuilding, will be rebuilt. Nature is our teacher and its lessons are all around us, but sometimes it takes a place like Guadalupe Mountains National Park to allow ourselves to slow down and listen.

As autumn moves into winter, the silhouettes of the bare branches cast against the immense sky resemble some kind of ancient calligraphy, indecipherable, written in a forgotten language. Winter can be the saddest of seasons, a time when life seems absent or diminished and the nights are long. But life is not gone, it is only changed or waiting.

As you encounter the stream in McKittrick Canyon, pause and listen. Look to the trees along the streamside and ponder the extraordinary set of circumstances that have allowed water to flow here freely, waiting to be tapped next spring, where it will become part of the tree's living sap, rising up its branches to deliver the nutrients necessary for new growth. The beauty of the trees in McKittrick Canyon has inspired generations of park visitors, whether it is the delicate bark of the Texas madrone or the sunset's palette of warm colors captured for a season in the maples. Benefiting from the presence of a precious substance like water, the trees remind us how much we have in common. All of life is kin, and like the trees, we are rooted in the earth, but our reach is for the heavens.

# Nearby Attractions

## LIVING DESERT ZOO & GARDENS STATE PARK

575-887-5516

Come face to face with a mountain lion at this unique zoo and botanical garden offering an opportunity to experience the Chihuahuan Desert first-hand. See a large collection of live animals, including the rare Mexican gray wolf, and the roadrunner, the state bird of New Mexico. There is also an unusual collection of cacti and other succulents from around the world.

The park is located high atop the Ocotillo Hills overlooking the northwest edge of Carlsbad, just off U.S. Highway 285, and features exhibits, an art gallery, gift shop, and refreshments.

Open daily except December 25.  
Wheelchair accessible.

### Winter Hours (after Labor Day)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Last tour entry—3:30 p.m.

### Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Last tour entry—3:30 p.m.

### Fees

Ages 13 and up	\$5.00
Children 7 - 12	\$3.00
Children 6 and under	free
Group (20+) discount available.	

## BRANTLEY LAKE STATE PARK

575-457-2384

Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 285, the campground has 51 RV sites with water and RV electric hookups (a few with sewer), a dump station, playground, restroom with hot showers, shelters, tables and grills. Other facilities include picnic areas with sheltered tables and grills, playground, a fishing dock, boat ramps with docks, and a visitor center.

Open all year—24 hours/day.

Wheelchair accessible.

### Fees

Day Use Only—\$5.00 per vehicle  
Camping—\$14.00 per night (\$10.00 for each additional vehicle driven into the same site)  
Primitive Camping Area—\$8.00 per vehicle per night.



NPS Photo

## LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

575-885-4181

The forest encompasses 1,103,441 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Maps are available at the Guadalupe Ranger District Office located in the Federal Building, 114 S. Halagueno, Room 159, in Carlsbad.

### Sitting Bull Falls (in Lincoln National Forest)

Wheelchair accessible.

Day use only—no camping.

Entrance fee—\$5.00 per vehicle or free with Interagency Annual Pass.

Seven miles southwest of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 276, this 130 foot falls is one of the highest in New Mexico. Picnic area, trails and restroom.



NPS Photo

### Five Points & Indian Vistas

Eleven miles south of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 540, an improved gravel road. A panoramic view of the desert from the top of the Guadalupe Mountains. Interpretive signs explain natural features.



NPS Photo

## Fall Colors at Guadalupe Mountains National Park



Located 55 miles south of Carlsbad, NM on Hwy 62/180 and 65 miles north of Van Horn, TX via Hwy 54, the park offers a range of hiking trails through wooded canyons that blaze with color from late October to early November. Call 915-828-3251 for updates on the color progression.

### Fees

\$5.00 per person (16 years and older)  
Free for Senior, Access and Annual Pass cardholders

### Hours

#### McKittrick Canyon

Through November 7, 2010  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)  
After November 7, 2010  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time)

The best color viewing is in McKittrick Canyon between the Pratt Cabin and the Grotto. The roundtrip distance for the Pratt Cabin hike is 5 miles and takes 2-3 hours to complete. The roundtrip distance for the Grotto Hike is 7 miles and takes 4-5 hours to complete. Both hikes are on level, but rocky trails. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

There are no restrooms available in McKittrick Canyon. Hikers must carry their own food and water. Picnic tables can be found at the Pratt Cabin and the Grotto. Please pack out all of your trash.

Weekends can be very busy. To avoid crowds, try visiting on weekdays or hiking in Devil's Hall or Dog Canyon as alternatives.

